

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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P R 161912 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8166

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCOMSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 1302

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BR

SUBJECT: GOB CONFISCATES APRIL 16 EDITION OPINIAO

1. DURING NIGHT OF APRIL 14-15, ARMED FEDERAL POLICE RAIDED THE RIO PLANT PUBLISHING THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OPINIAO, WHERE THEY CONFISCATED ALL COPIES OF THE APRIL 16 TH ISSUE THAT HAD BEEN PRINTED, AND ARRESTED THE PAPER'S DIRECTOR, EDITOR, AND SUB- EDITOR. CONGEN' S POLOFF WAS INFORMED BY FERNANDO GASPARIAN, OPINIAO' S DIRECTOR, THAT HE AND HIS TWO EDITORS WERE RELEASED SUNDAY, APRIL 15, AFTER BEING HELD NINE HOURS INCOMMUNICADO.

2. OPINIAO, LAUNCHED IN RIO OCTOBER 1972, HAS HAD POLICY OF PRINTING ARTICLES TOUCHING ON AREAS SENSITIVE TO GOB, SUCH AS THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION QUESTION, PRESS CENSORSHIP, AND STUDENT PROTESTS OVER POLICE ARRESTS.

3. ITS READERSHIP, ESTIMATED AT 35 THOUSAND, CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF UNIVERSITY AND INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES. OPINIAO HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH SEVERAL FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS SUCH AS LE MONDE, THE WASHINGTON POST, AND THE GUARDIAN, TO EXCHANGE AND REPRINT ARTICLES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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4. THOUGH GOB HAD ASSIGNED GOVERNMENT CENSOR TO PREMISES OF PAPER LAST JANUARY TO SCREEN ARTICLES, OPINIAO WAS STILL

ABLE TO PUBLISH SOME STORIES ON CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS, PLACING BLACKED OUT BE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR MBFR NEEDS. WILLOT STATED THAT HE AND STRULAK VISITED THE IAEA FACILITIES WITH ZANETTI AND FOUND THE FACILITIES GENERALLY ADEQUATE, IF NOT EVEN BETTER THAN THOSE OF HOFFBURG. HOWEVER, HE NOTED SOME PROBLEM AREAS. IN GROUP DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS PARKING, CAUCUS ROOMS ETC., ITALIAN REP (TALIANI) NOTED THAT BIGGEST PROBLEM WOULD BE PARKING, BUT THAT OTHERWISE HE THOUGHT THAT USING THE IAEA BUILDING COULD PROVE PREFERABLE TO THE HOFBURG, THAT IN PARTICULAR THE SERVICE AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN THE IAEA WERE EXCELLENT. BELGIUM DEP REP TOLD GROUP THAT AUSTRIANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IAEA FACILITIES USED BY MBFR WOULD BE CONSIDERED AUSTRIAN FACILITIES AND NOT THOSE OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. AUSTRIAN REP NOTED IT WOULD BE ANALOGOUS TO THE FACILITIES MBFR WOULD HAVE USED IN GENEVA. IT WAS AGREED BY THE GROUP THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH DELEGATION COULD VISIT THE IAEA FACILITIES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND DETERMINE FOR THEMSELVES THE ADEQUACY OF THE FACILITIES. WILLOT WAS TO NOTIFY THE AUSTRIANS THAT THE WESTERN GROUP WOULD GIVE THEIR ANSWER AFTER EASTER, AND HE WAS FURTHER REQUESTED TO ASK THE POLISH REP NOT TO GIVE AUSTRIANS AN EASTERN ANSWER UNTIL THE TWO GROUPS COULD COORDINATE.

3. BILATERALS:

A. ROMANIA/ FRG. FRG DEPUTY REP, (HOFFMAN), REPORTED ON A BILATERAL MEETING WITH POPESCU OF ROMANIAN DELEGATION. POSECU'S MAIN THEME WAS THAT NO OTHER NATION COULD SPEAK FOR ROMANIA. HE INTIMATED THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE ROMANIAN OBJECTION TO HAVING OTHERS SPEAK FOR THEM THAT A HUNGARIAN UNILATERAL STATEMENT RATHER THAN AN EASTERN UNILATERAL STATEMENT WAS GOING TO BE MADE ON THE HUNGARY QUESTION. ROMANIAN DEPUTY REP FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT THE ROMANIANS WANTED "AS MANY PLENARIES AS POSSIBLE" AFTER THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION WAS SOLVED. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THEIR ADAMANT STAND THAT NO ONE ELSE

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SHOULD REPRESENT ROMANIA AND, THEREFORE, THEY WERE OPPOSED TO USING THE QUADRIPARTITE MEETINGS OR SIMILAR SUCH VEHICLES TO CARRY FORWARD DISCUSSIONS ON AGENDA AND OTHER TOPICS. WHEN FRG REP ASKED POPESCU IF ROMANIAN WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A SIMILAR GROUP DISCUSSING SOME OF THE REMAINING ISSUES, POPESCU INDICATED THEY WOULD ONLY JOIN SUCH A GROUP IF IT DID NOT REPRESENT TWO SIDES. POPESCU ALSO NOTED THAT THE ROMANIANS WOULD NOT IN THE FUTURE MAKE IT A ROUTINE POINT TO ALWAYS VISIT THE US FIRST WHEN BROACHING SUCH SUBJECTS AS MORE PLENARIES, ETC. FRG REP INDICATED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE GREAT LENGTHS THE ROMANIANS WOULD GO TO IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THEY MAINTAIN THEIR SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT WE SHOULD HELP THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THIS SEPARATION

FROM THE EASTERN " BLOC". ITALIAN REP ADDED THAT HE FELT IT
WAS TO WEST' S ADVANTAGE TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA IN PLENARIES AS
MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

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